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AMSAT SPECIAL BULLETIN

AMSAT NEWS SERVICE BULLETIN 361.01 FROM AMSAT HQ
SILVER SPRING, MD, DECEMBER 26, 2000
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-361.01

ANS is pleased to confirm that AO-40 is transmitting on 2401.305 MHz.

Prior to this confirmation, the satellite had not transmitted any signals since December 13, 2000, which was shortly after the first burn of the 400-N motor.

Peter, DB2OS, provided ANS with the following information:

On December 25, 2000 at 21:45 UTC command station ZL1AOX transmitted a L-band reset command which included an initialization block to switch 'on' one of the two S-band transmitters onboard AO-40. Just after the first attempt, AO-40's S-2 beacon was received by Ian, ZL1AOX, on 2401.305 MHz. The signal strength was S-5 to S-6, which compares to S-2 when the beacon was last heard last during testing in early December.

AO-40's S-band transmitter produced a steady signal at ZL1AOX and from the doppler wobbling it was also clear that it was in fact coming from AO-40.

ZL1AOX reported that he was able to copy and observe the S-2 beacon until LOS at 03:45:15 UTC. Predicted LOS from NORAD's orbital set #12 indicated a LOS within 5 seconds of that time.

At the time of reception, AO-40's approximate distance from ZL1AOX was 61,470 kilometers.

Later today (December 26th), ZL1AOX will re-acquire AO-40 shortly after perigee with a reasonably good squint angle. He will than start reloading AO-40's IPS software. Until that task is completed, AO-40's beacon will not carry any telemetry, just carrier.

Stay tuned to ANS for additional bulletins from AMSAT, the official source for information on AMSAT OSCAR-40.

[ANS thanks AMSAT-DL and AMSAT-NA for this information]

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Via the ans mailing list at AMSAT.ORG courtesy of AMSAT-NA.
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